

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A branch tee fitting comprising: a tubular body portion (11) having a pair of openings at both ends; and a tubular branch portion (12) perpendicular to the tubular body portion (11), the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) being formed in such a manner that one plate (1a) is bent and along a plane inclusive of the center line of the tubular body portion (11) and the center line of the tubular branch portion (12), facing edges of the bent plate (1a) are joined in superposed relation, angles between the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) being formed with flat portions (13), respectively, in which corners of the plates (1a) are superposed to each other,

wherein the branch tee fitting includes engaging pawls (14) for engaging the superposed flat portions (13),

wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is formed on one of the superposed flat portions (13), and constructed so that it is bent over the other of the flat portions (13) to engage both of the flat portions (13)

wherein each of the flat portions (13) is formed in a substantially triangular region defined by a base end of the tubular branch portion (12) and an edge side which is a straight line connecting associated corner points of the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12).

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The fitting of claim 13,
wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is arranged at the middle position of the edge side of the corresponding flat portion (13).

5. (Original) The fitting of claim 4,
wherein each of the engaging pawls (14) is formed in a triangular shape whose width decreases with distance from the edge side of the flat portion (13).

6. (Original) The fitting of claim 1,
wherein the tubular body portion (11) and the tubular branch portion (12) are provided with: fitting portions (11a, 12a) which are fitted with pipes (P) inserted therein; and small diameter portions (11b, 12b) which have smaller diameters than the fitting portions (11a, 12a), respectively.